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Happy Easter



TRICARE Northwest

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17 Madigan Staff Groups Split \$47,000

Sharon D. Ayala, Mamc PAO

The first Madigan Army Medical Center Improvement Awards ceremony of the millennium was conducted Feb. 24 in the Letterman Auditorium.

More than \$45,000 was awarded to 17 groups from Madigan for their projects that contribute to the overall improvement of the medical center.

The purpose of the improvement awards program is to offer monetary awards as incentives to staff groups for the development and execution of outstanding programs.

In order to be considered for a monetary award, each project had to meet the following criteria: multidisciplinary in nature; process oriented; improve quality or standards; improve resource or utilization management; increase productivity; reduce the deficit; and increase efficiency. Additionally, all projects must have been active for a minimum of six months and the data to support the project collected over that period.

The winners are listed on page 3.

NHB Donates Time and Effort to Get Bone Marrow Donors

JO2 Michael Howlett, NHB

Mixed with the good-natured moans and groans about needles being stuck in their arms, were smiles of contentment from people who knew they were doing something good. This St. Patrick's Day at Naval Hospital Bremerton, people wore green with a little bit of beige from a bandage earned at the C.W. Bill Young Bone Marrow Donor Center sponsored donor registration drive.

Service members and civil service employees were asked to take 5 minutes out of their day to sign up for the national bone marrow donor reg-

istry. The registration took place in the Intensive Care Unit's conference room on the fifth floor of the hospital.

"I wanted to be in the position to be able to help save a life," said Hospital Apprentice Ryan Gird, 19, who works in the Medical-Surgical Ward of the hospital. This is the same reason the former Certified Nursing Assistant chose to join the Navy and become a Hospital Corpsman. When asked about his decision to become a registered donor, he drew on past

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Savings to Madigan

Over the four years of this program, 89 groups have been awarded more than \$315,500 in prizes involving 790 people with a cost-avoidance of \$31,372,000 for a return on investment of \$99.40 to \$1.00.

Although all of the groups received a monetary award for their projects, the largest amount awarded to a single group was \$10,000.



NHB Donates Time and Effort to Get Bone Marrow Donors Cont'd

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experience alongside his mother who worked in a nursing home, "One of my mom's patients had a bone marrow transplant, and when I heard about the drive, (the patient) was all I could think about."

That particular patient was one of the lucky ones. Every year in the U.S. approximately 59,000 people die of disorders that marrow transplants could have helped to cure, according to Chief Electrical Technician (SW) Gerard Gillespie, who represented the Donor Center at the registration drive. The Chief retires from the Navy in June and will go to work in the same position at the Donor Center. Gillespie's passion for the job is evident when pitching to passers-by.

"Help save a life," he called out to one person walking by. This enthusiasm brings in results. During the daylong event, 116 people registered to be bone marrow donors.

Gillespie himself has had the opportunity to be a donor. After initially joining the registration in 1994, he was called in 1997 to undergo further tests for a possible match.. After a couple of weeks, he was determined to be the best possible match and donated bone mar-

row in what has become a more streamlined procedure.

The technique currently used allows a person to be back to work in just a matter of days after the marrow is extracted.

"Psychologically, it was the best experience I ever had," said Gillespie.

The registration wouldn't have been possible without the

volunteers from the Family Practice Clinic under the coordination of Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (SW) Daniel Ackerman.

Ackerman, who recently was awarded the Navy/Marine Corps Medal for his lifesaving act of heroism in Hawaii, rounded up volunteers from his clinic, and also spent the day combing the floors of the hospital to stir up donors. During a lunchtime rush, Ackerman and Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Laddie Johnson came up with the idea of setting up another table in front of the waiting area for the pharmacy. This action brought in over 20 additional donors.

Rounding up volunteers

wasn't a difficult task, since they all realized the importance of their work.

"This is all a part of patient care, doing what I can to help others," said Jamie Johnson, a civilian Medical Assistant in the Family Practice Clinic.

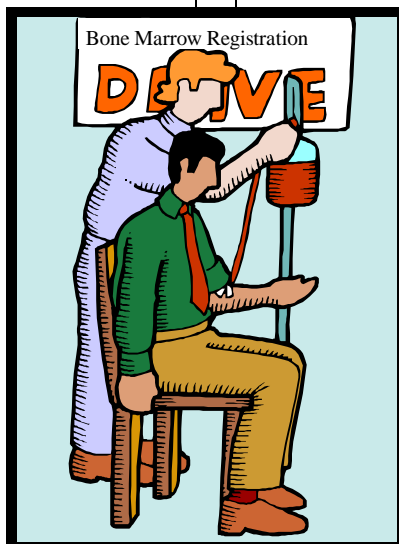
There will be further registration drives around the area, so anyone who missed this one

will still have an opportunity to sign up.

People who have signed up in the past, but have moved since then should call the 1-800 number on the backs of their registration cards to update the information. This will make finding possible donors easier,

without having to "track down" people through their contacts.

To find out more information about donating bone marrow, or about the program, visit the Donor Center at this site on the Internet, www.dodmarrow.com.





MAMC Improvement Award Winners



The following individuals received cash awards that can be used to further develop their award winning projects:

\$10,000 Winner: COL Howard Cushner, Adult Primary Care Clinic
Project Title: Development of An Acute Triage Section Within a Large Internal Medicine Clinic

\$5,000 Winner: LTC David Bower, Anesthesia and Operative Services
Project Title: Cost Containment in Anesthesia Drug Utilization

\$5,000 Winner: COL Thomas Dillard, Pulmonary Clinic
Project Title: The Mediastinal Lymphadenopath Diagnosis Initiative

\$5,000 Winner: Dr. Vickie Driver, Podiatry Clinic
Project Title: Standardization of Advanced Wound Care Product

\$3,000 Winner: LTC Elizabeth Mittelstaedt, Maternal Child Nursing
Project Title: MCH Correspondence Program (Strong Perifax Program)

\$2,500 Winner: MAJ (P) Stephen Bolt, Anesthesia and Operative Services
Project Title: Invasive Pain Management Procedures in the Madigan Operating Room

\$2,500 Winner: Dr. George Collins, Jr., Dept of Surgery
Project Title: Perfusion Solution

\$2,500 Winner: Synda Lefebvre, Orthopedic Clinic
Project Title: Total Joint Pathway Improvement Process

\$2,500 Winner: LTC Doug Vermillion, Orthopedic Clinic
Project Title: Increasing Unit Readiness by Increasing the Efficiency of the Medical Evaluation Board Process

\$2,500 Winner: Mary McCarthy, Nursing Research
Project Title: Nutrition Support Committee Combines Cost-Saving Initiatives with Quality Care

\$1,000 Winner: Ms. Maria Coffman, Operating Rm
Project Title: Triseptin Surgical Scrub

\$1,000 Winner: CPT Dewey Collier, Anesthesia and Operative Services
Project Title: Post-Operative Evaluations

\$1,000 Winner: LTC Raymond Costabile, Urology Department
Project Title: Urology Clinical Research Initiative

\$1,000 Winner: LTC Karen Cozean, Occupational Therapy
Project Title: Improving MAMC Work Stations to Prevent or Reduce Staff Repetitive Motion Injuries

\$1,000 Winner: MAJ Barbara King, Operating Rm
Project Title: Urology Resource Cart

\$1,000 Winner: LTC James King, Cardiology Clinic
Project Title: Anticoagulation Clinic Automation Telephone System

\$1,000 Winner: LTC Dave Pratt, Logistics Division
Project Title: Office Supplies Standardization



H.O.L.D. A Program Helping Military Families

Sharon D. Ayala, Mamc PAO

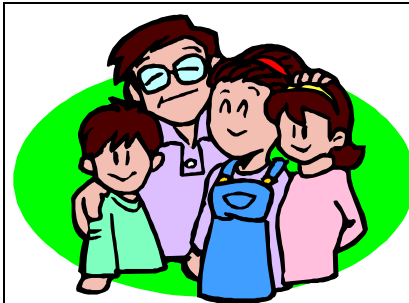
H.O.L.D. (Helping Others Living with Diversity) is a support group comprised of family members from McChord Air Force Base.

The objective of the support group is to promote better services for Exceptional Family Members.

H.O.L.D. was established in December 1998. It is a local, non-profit, private organization, that connects new or relocating families who have Exceptional Family Members with someone

locally who has a similar type of diagnosis or special need. Relocating every two to three years is not easy for such parents. With the assistance of the support group members, new families are put in contact with sponsors who can answer questions about life with a family member with special needs.

There are several hundred exceptional family members living on McChord AFB. With the help of this program, parents of children with special needs can



come together to meet, talk and share experiences with other families who may be experiencing similar problems. (Compiled by the MAMC Public Affairs Office)

Naval Hospital to Host Independent Duty Corpsman Conference

The 7th annual Pacific Northwest Independent Duty Corpsman Conference, hosted by Naval Hospital Bremerton, will be held April 26-28 at the Olympic House, on Naval Submarine Base, Bangor, WA.

The objective of the conference is to provide 16 Category I Continuing Medical Education credits, medical updates, labs on airway management; and to provide current medical treatment guidelines to Fleet IDCs. Some of the subjects to be covered by navy and civilian physicians in-

clude Ballistic Missile Trauma, Differential Diagnosis for Chest Pain, Treating Abdominal Pain in Females, Anti-hypertensives in Young Adults and Bugs and Drugs-Challenges in Infectious Disease Treatment. Additionally, feedback on operational limitations and employment of medical practices, while deployed, will be solicited.

Although geared toward local Fleet Independent Duty Corpsmen the conference is open to all U.S. Military IDCs. Seating is limited and registration ends

April 19. Additional conference information, schedule and a registration form are available online at http://nh_bremerton.med.navy.mil/idc/ or contact: HMCS Craig Kelley, (360)475-4236/4178, DSN 494-4236, e-mail: kelleyc@pnw.med.navy.mil, or HM2 Michael Westlund, (360)475-4868, DSN 494-4868, e-mail: westlundm@pnw.med.navy.mil.



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